

Corvi Chronicle

Journal of the American Society of Crows and Ravens Vol. XXIV, No. 1, 2009 (C.E.)

NUMBER please

As sometimes hunting stratagem is based on the folk assumption that other animals are absolutely dumb when it comes to mathematics. A pair of hunters will conspicuously enter a blind or stand. Shortly one of them will conspicuously leave. The theory is that since they cannot distinguish between one and two things, i.e. count, potential quarry species can in this way be tricked into thinking the blind or stand has been deserted and will then come out of hiding.

Such tactics may have or might fool a turkey or a buck but not a raven or crow. Corvids are among the few studied species who seem to have a sense of what behaviorists have called, "Un-named numbers," i.e. a precise appreciation of differences in quantity. In other words, they can count up to a point. In a German lab a raven by the name of Jacob demonstrated that he could easily and accurately count up to six. Quite possibly free ranging corvids do more. Dr. Lawrence Kilham (author of *American Crows and Ravens*) once remarked that laboratory tests demonstrate behavioral potentials not limits.

Whatever it may be the range of un-

named numbers used by corvids must lie between nothing and countless. As a practical matter it is much the same with us even though the mathematical prowess of people seems to be greater. Gathered at a shopping center dumpster seven crows are seven crows are seven crows. The named number is informative and described a meaningful reality. But at night these birds roost with a congregation of their kind, 20-, 30-, 40-thousand of them. Though we may name them, these numbers are only synonyms for and no more descriptive than "a lot of crows." Four as in the number of dollars paid for a gallon of gas is substantive and meaningful. Four trillion dollars of debt is a weightless abstraction.

Here at ASCAR's Member Service Bureau, we frequently must be concerned with numbers – named and un-named, and most particularly assigned and unassigned – for reasons which the following exchanges will suggest.

Dear ASCAR:

I have been a member and generous supporter of this fine organization for the past six years. However, I have yet to be given a Corvi number. I have



long hoped to be #314. As I have requested previously, please forward necessary application forms. Are references now required?

Eagerly,

Pye R. Squard

In this matter the policy established by the Board of ASCAR is: "When conducting ASCAR or any other business members are free to identify themselves by any name or number which they fancy at the time."

Perhaps some avail themselves of this privilege for reasons of grim necessity. More often doing so provides, wholesome, harmless entertainment or at least temporary nominative relief from conventional given and surnames which are ridiculous, demeaning or simply boring; e.g. Squard. To put it as plainly as possible, Corvi numbers are chosen and taken, not assigned and given. Among other things this policy reflects ASCAR's

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Bird banding miscue hatches Rossitten fallacy

Dear Sir:

There must be a score of anecdotes about bird banding, many of them apocryphal and an equal number about the edibility of crows. (Talk of the Roost, vol. XXIII, No. 3)

The recipe for stewed crow that I remember from my youth was this: Put the bird in a pot of water with an old leather boot, boil them together for eight hours, then

discard the carcass and serve the boot.

My favorite anecdotes about banding I found in Joseph J. Hickey's estimable classic, *A Guide to Bird Watching* (OUP 1943, Dover reprint 1975). Hickey relates that among the very early banding stations was one established by German ornithologists on the island of Rossitten in the Baltic in 1903. Their activity resulted in some delicious

confusion. French farmers who found a dead gull surmised that the band was a distress message from the good ship Rossitten, and when an eagle with the band number 1285 was shot in Bulgaria, the local press reported the discovery of an eagle more than 600 years old.

Hickey, by the way, offers a slightly different and more plausible version of the wash, boil & surv. story. It involved

a typo on a shipment of bands from England. The Biological Survey was the ancestor to today's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

"Rossitten fallacy" would make a good eponymous term for that particular species of superstition that involves embracing the least probable, most preposterous (and, usually, most dramatic) expla-

Continued on page 3

NUMBER *please* continued

Preparing for brave new world

traditional abhorrence of all forms of authority.

Dear ASCAR:

A note on the location and nature of Heaven recently appeared in the Corvi Chronicle. I would consider it a most insightful and convincing commentary on the subject if it was contributed by an accepted authority. However, it was attributed only to Number 54. Could this be the *nombre de plume* of Professor Josiah Carbury, Tilton Professor of Psychoceramics at Brown University? I am a great admirer and the style and substance are suggestive.

Puzzled,
Ari S. Tottle

The staff of the Corvi Chronicle makes editorial judgements on the basis of what is written, not who wrote it. Too often in other publications the irrelevant name of the author obscures the true merit or pecanancy of a report or essay.

ASCAR director of security:

I received my copy of the Corvi Chronicle and – as I have been given to understand I should – sat down to read it with care. You can well imagine my shock and dismay to find a description of a method for precisely counting the number of crows in a night-time roost. Not only is the methodology flawed but it appears under the byline of Number 314 even though I had absolutely no knowledge of this ridiculous work. Perhaps it is only a typographic error but I am sure you will want to investigate immediately. I sincerely hope that neither cronyism or nepotism are involved.

Extremely disturbed,
I remain as always
#314

The sharing of Corvi numbers flows naturally from the ASCAR motto: *Non Soli Summus*. Many members change numbers frequently, a few even daily, for the sake of amusement or to enjoy new and different bonding experiences. (Presently the most popular Corvi num-

ber is, for fairly obvious reasons, 2012.)

It is worth bearing in mind that excessive preoccupation with exclusivity of ten leads to exceptionalism, possessionism, solipsism or worse.



In former times and among other peoples, names were carefully selected so as to provide useful information about the antecedents, character and potential of the individuals who bore them. Consider, for example, Puckeshinwa (of the Panther clan or *umsoma*) and his wife, Methosastaskes (Turtle *umsoma*) a prominent couple in the Shawnee Nation during the latter part of the 18th century. Various portents indicated that their third son was to be a very special human. After long consultation with wise men and women they named him (as rendered phonetically) *nils ni tekamthi manetuwi msi-pessii* a rough English translation of which would be: One Who Waits By the Trails Of Men And Can Spring Into The Heavens As The Celestial Panther And Shooting Star. The child lived up to his promise and is still remembered and admired as Tecumseh, the great Shawnee orator, diplomat and warrior.

Tecumseh's younger brother was a much different person, in fact, he was at first a disgrace to his family and people. Clumsy, a poor hunter and no

warrior he was given to sulks and irrational temper tantrums. Later when he was introduced to fur trader's whiskey he became a chronic, unpleasant drunk and was called, in part, Lalawethika or Cowardly Panther Who Drags His Tail In The Dust. But in his early manhood, the wretched Lalawethika had an amazing epiphanic experience. He fell into a long, deep coma and was transported into the presence of the Maker of Life. The Creator told him that he must return to Earth and exhort the red people to abandon European ways and take up their old ones. When they had done so the Maker of Life would see to it that they were no longer troubled by white men.

Recovering from the coma, Lalawethika became a teetotaler, abandoned his other former vices and began preaching as he had been instructed to by the Maker of Life. Soon people from many nations in the Ohio Valley and Great Lakes regions accepted his vision as a true one giving spiritual strength to Tecumseh's red resistance movement. Obviously such a remarkable and favored person as his younger brother could no longer bear a disgraceful name and so Lalawethika became Tenskawatawa, One Who Opens The Door. Whites spoke of and feared him as the Shawnee Prophet.

Though never – at least in historic times – so complex as Shawnee ones, English names once had some informational content: Carpenter, Clark, Taylor, Woodson, Bowman, etc. But very few now carry intrinsic meaning and in consequence are increasingly being replaced by numbers. Out of politeness a conventional name may be asked for and accepted but when things get down to real business what is wanted is Social Security, PIN, registration or birth-date numbers. There have been objections that because of rapidly growing populations, digital names may become so long and cumbersome as to be, in effect, un-named numbers. This should not be a matter of concern. Given normal mortality rates

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Three Ravens

Ceramic tile and sculpture artist Sarah Fitch of Rolling Raven Studio created three ravens to attach to a new tall chimney on the studio of Ruth Apter, who creates raku-fired tiles and ceramics. Both artists have studios in Port Townsend, Wash. Apter sent the photo at right and notes "The Ravens that fly over the house should be honored!" To view more of Fitch's work visit her studio online at <http://www.rollingravenstudio.com/>. To see Apter's work visit One Hundred Horses online at <http://www.one-hundredhorses.com/>



ROSSITTEN FALLACY *continued*

Internation Eponymics Society certifies general usage

nation for any unexplained phenomenon. The UFO cultists are among the leading exemplars, followed closely by the devotees of Freudian psychology and anti-Darwinian creationists.

Caw to you, #666, *University City, Mo.*

EDITOR'S COMMENT

As Eliot Porter, #666, writes above, his note was first inspired by an apocryphal story which has circulated within ornithological circles for many years and was recounted in a recent issue of the Chronicle. Briefly, the U.S. Biological Survey (antecedent of the present U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) once mistakenly issued a series of metal bird bands imprinted to read

"Boil.-Surv.-Wash, DC." A hunter shot a so-banded crow and then obediently did with it as directed by the federal agency.

We are obliged to #666 for contributing additional bird banding tales but most especially for calling attention to the "Rossitten fallacy" a significant semantic and philosophical innovation which ASCAR members will want to consider carefully. Due to the frequent use and misuse of such terms as "crowbar," "crow's feet," and "ravenstone" ASCAR has long been a cooperating, institutional member of the Internation Eponymics Society. (Boycott Building, Platonic Way, Malaprop, Indiana). We

are pleased to report that the IES, the governing authority in such matters, has certified "Rossitten fallacy" (aka Occam's Bane, an increasingly obsolete expression) for both technical and general usage. Several suggested variations are listed below.

- "Radio talk show host, Bush Rimbaugh, rossitteners that global warming is a left-wing conspiracy."
- "A leading cryptozoologist, Dr. Fauntleroy Grandfoot, rossittens that new phone photos and the removal of organic broccoli baits from traps indicates a very large, very hairy primate is native to North America. Grandfoot speculates that

underwater hibernation, radiation ingestion and evolution of ESP capacity accounts for Sasquatch having thus far remained undetected."

- "Rev. Rob Paterson rossittened yesterday that recent hurricanes, floods and economic crises have been caused by sex education and gay marriages."
- "American Way Roundtable brands 'rossitten fallacy' as a dangerous, elitist concept; threatens traditional family values, banking and political practices; promotes disrespect for authority, cynical observation and social unrest."

NUMBER *please* *continued*

there will always be an adequate supply of good, low, workable numbers.

For example, #1 will become available at least once every hundred years or so, usually much oftener.

Beyond offering entertainment and/or

relief, ASCAR's name-and-number program is an experimental, transitional one, which provides the members the opportunity to prepare painlessly for the brave new world to be. -- #2012 (aka #314), *Members Service Bureau, ASCAR*



A Corvi in San Francisco sketched an envelope greeting: "I fly, caw, caw, caw, I can!"

STICKS AND STONES

Disarmament now

Both in the wild and behavioral labs crows have demonstrated the ability not only to use tools but make them – probe, hook, pick like devices. And they may be ready to take another large step forward somewhat as our kind has in its pursuit of civilization.

In the *Wilson Journal of Ornithology*, Robert Balda reports on a thought-provoking incident which he observed in Flagstaff, Ariz. There a Stellar Jay was attempting to share a bird feeder with an American crow. When the jay approached too closely the crow would turn, face him down and drive him off the feeder. Finally the frustrated jay flew away and perched in a nearby mahogany tree. The jay then broke off a four-inch long twig from the tree. Holding it in his beak with the sharper end pointing outward, he flew back to the feeder and then lunged at the crow, narrowly miss-

ing giving the larger bird a poke with the sharp stick. The startled crow rushed at the jay who dropped the twig and flew off closely followed

by the crow who had picked up the stick and carrying it, spear-like pursued the jay. The two birds disappeared from sight and so the final outcome

of their dual is unknown.

There are reports of crows attempting to defend their nests from human climbers by pelting them, so to speak, with pine cones. But the Flagstaff incident appeared to have been something much more complex – an attempted stabbing with an intentionally wielded weapon. Certainly it is a happening which immediately stirs the imagination.

You think “The Birds” was just another horror flick. The next time when the jays and crows come again they will all be carrying four-inch spears probably honed by some of their best tool makers. Or maybe razors made out of glass shards.

Sticks don’t kill. But watch out for crows with pointy ones.

Poor Barack. Taliban, North Koreans, Pirates and now, armed corvids.

“The Birds” Barbie



In December 2008, a Gaithersburg, Md., corvi sent a clipping from an unidentified publication noting that Mattel toys had issued the perfect \$40 gift for fans of Barbie dolls or of Alfred Hitchcock’s film, “The Birds.” The special issue Barbie was for the 1963 film’s 45th anniversary. Barbie is dressed to look like “The Birds” lead female character played by Tippi Hedren. Three black birds, wings stretched, are attached to Barbie – in her hair, on one shoulder and on one hip. In a Disney film, the birds might seem to be pulling Barbie along but we know better. Hitchcock’s birds – gulls in the film -- were menacing mobsters. Mattel’s Web site noted that “the production doll may vary from the photo Doll cannot stand alone as shown.”

The Corvi Chronicle is published irregularly by corvi who have an interest in or need for doing so for members of The American Society of Crows and Ravens and others. There is no subscription fee, but it is customary and seemly to send contributions to pay for production and mailing. There is a direct connection between contributions, the size of the Chronicle and its frequency of distribution. Those who do not choose to contribute will continue to receive the Chronicle and enjoy all membership privileges. However, they will no doubt suffer a loss of self-esteem and may occasionally be mocked by other corvis.

Members are reminded to make new corvi by duplicating and pass-

ing along issues of the Chronicle.

ASCAR has a home page or chat room on the Internet:

<http://www.ascaronline.org/>

Editor..... Corvi #68
Art Directors Corvi #3, #13 #29 and #1300

The Board Known only to themselves

The Chronicle accepts articles and manuscripts of reasonable length on any topic acknowledged by The Board, news clippings and general correspondence. Unused material will be returned in good time to the authors. Commentary (insightful, indignant or otherwise) should be addressed to:

ASCAR / CORVI CHRONICLE
KAW RIVER VALLEY ROOST
BOX 1423
LAWRENCE KS 66044-8423

Privacy act

ASCAR now numbers — so think some who enjoy counting things — about 900 members. Alphabetically and in terms of interests and attitudes members range — an expression — from academics to Zoroastrians. But only the Editor and an associate minion know who and where they all are. This is in keeping with the Corvi Privacy Act that forbids those who know from talking about or to other corvis or using their names and addresses in the Chronicle without permission. The CPA is occasionally tested by purveyors of crow curios wanting access to mailing lists.

However, because many

members have similar interests and have indicated a desire to make the acquaintance of others who share

them, some thought has been given to adjusting the CPA to accommodate these wishes. Therefore anyone who would like to hear from other corvi should send along their name and address to the editor. These will be published occasionally in the Chronicle. Names are not absolutely necessary — Corvi numbers will do — but addresses are. Obviously those who wish to remain known only to the editor and her associate minion should do nothing and will continue to enjoy the protection of CPA.



THE TALK OF THE ROOST

POOP ARTISTS

Earlier this year, we received a clipping of a Feb. 28, 2009, column by Jan Thacker at the Fairbanks Daily News-Minor in which she proposed a local contest for vehicles decorated with raven droppings. A pickup truck spectacularly spattered with frozen raven poop was her inspiration. To Thacker, the truck's sides and back window looked as if "they were part of some sort of modern art movement.

"Frozen raven poop dribbled and dripped down the sides in bizarre patterns and the entire back window of the pickup was festooned in long oozing streaks of the substance. I can only imagine the party that must have taken place in that pickup to bring about such an amazing display of artistic talent. Surely these weren't just our normal everyday ravens that hang out at McDonald's. Maybe they were university ravens, ones that are studying Pablo Picasso and Vincent van Gogh.

"After admiring the pickup ... I thought how fun it would be to have an annual raven decorating contest. On a certain day, contestants would drive up to the News-Miner and display their decorated vehicles. The winner would win a fabulous prize – like a trip to Hawaii where they wouldn't have to worry about frozen raven poop.

Second place could be a trip through a local carwash.

"The trouble is, I don't know how you'd keep contestants from cheating. Everyone knows, usually through a hard-learned lesson, that if you put a bag of trash in the back of a vehicle, ravens will converge like mosquitoes on a bald head."

SIGNING OFF

The ASCAR Webmaster received the following note on Jan. 18, 2009.

Yesterday I was driving south on I-94 in Chicago, just where southbound 94 joins southbound I-90, and I saw to my right a big billboard for Officemax.

On top of it, sitting very naturally, were nine REALLY HUGE statues of birds. Three crows, three pigeons, and three seagulls, not to scale—they were all of equal size—but very life-like. I'm freakin' out here! Will send you a picture for the Corvi Chronicle.

What I want to know is, does anyone know what advertising company did this campaign, and how do I get my hands on some or all of those crow statues?!

Will keep you apprised. -- Corvi 1460

In May, ASCAR's Bureau of Investigation conducted a Web search for references to Officemax billboard birds and turned up several advertising blogs (Web logs) generally raving about the fake birds perched on billboards.

It seems the birds are organized by categories – families -- and organization is key. The billboard was promoting a new product line by Peter Walsh, the Australian who believes clutter not only rots the soul but breeds malaise and suffering among the affluent. Walsh writes books and makes national television appearances with his gospel of declutter and has designed a line of products to help. Actually he calls it a system, not a line, of products.

A blog known as AdRants said the boards were to run through March 1 in major cities nationwide, including Chicago, Phoenix, Los Angeles and Denver. The target market: women seeking "affordable, stylish private label products that help professionals get organized, do their jobs better and have fun doing it."

While most of the ad blogs considered the birds on the billboards inspired marketing, a few waggish comments on



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ROOST NOTES *nesting co-ops, niches*

Corvid cooperative nesting

Corvids – like us – are social. Even though, there are ornithological papers saying that American Crows use cars as nutcrackers, they are cooperative feeders, using sentinels to look out as others feed on the ground, and as cooperative breeders, territory members share information to show each other where the grub is. Common Ravens do the same, as perhaps other raven and crow species.

But there are other North American corvid that cooperatively breed, maybe feed, and “flock,” a social behavior which enables social protection and more eyes to see a limited or ecologically constrained resource like food or potential nest sites. Like in ravens, they are organized by a “peck” dominated male and female, sometimes in a hierarchy, though in ravens it is not progressive. At a carrion “bonanza,” the two birds have the other adults and juveniles under them and they feed when they want to eat.

Brown Jay
Green Jay
Florida Scrub Jay
Pinyon Jay
Mexico Jay
Tufted Jay

Northwestern Crow – very few helpers per nest

These species are also notorious flockers. Dr. Stephen T. Emlen of Cornell University examined 112 bird species and 63 mammal species and found that 96 percent of avian species and 90 percent of mammal species demonstrated cooperative breeding. Cooperative breeding, he said, is primarily restricted to familial societies.

He found that 88 percent of the birds and 95 percent of the mammals are cooperative breeders living in multigenerational family groups.

Blue Jays are hard to keep up with enough to indicate co-op anything, though breeding pairs can hold onto territories all year round. There was one master’s thesis indicating observance of helping, but it did not go anywhere,

Cooperative breeding is defined as pairs helped by familiars such as previous off-spring while passing on only 50 percent of their genes, with the hope of gaining the parental territory to breed in the future upon the deaths of the dominant parents.

Cooperative feeding, named after Eurasian and American White Pelicans learned to coral fish using a cooperative closing circle (and peripheral single feeders have more luck!), can mean a lot in corvids, like flocking daily winter night (i.e. crows) and day (i.e. Pinyon Jays) roosts and the use of sentinels (which starlings and Canada Geese do, too) and is defined as commensally (one side profits, the hunted does not as opposed to mutualism and parasitism). Sociality is expressed in many behaviors such as flocking. – *Corvi 2.58, Bethlehem, Pa.*

Niche partitioning?

My study of an urban, east-central Pennsylvania, sub-population of mixed species flock of early winter Fish, and American, crows seemed to sustain a war of attrition struggling for the same resources, food and nest sites, etc.

Fed whole kernel corn and unshelled peanuts, American Crows seemed to socially dominate Fish Crows when food availability decreased. Were they trying to increase their foraging territories?

Individual place and space behavior was observed in the American Crows, which “nudged” out Fish Crow individuals for food and puddles. It seemed that Fish crows arrived first on wet days and only on wet days after, but I’m not sure: we’re seeing both species quite inland now in the Lehigh River Valley. In the spring, while food supplements continued, flocks of both species seemed to “check out” nearby trees for nesting, or maybe claimed tree roosts nearest to the food (?).

Both species being omnivores, when feeding together, they seemed to use sentinels and seemed to profit by each other’s anti-predator behavior, as there was a wintering female immature Cooper’s Hawk and Red-tailed Hawk in the area (also by each other; pigeons?), which may have signaled the response. It seemed that when I came to the window, and especially raised my binoculars, the flock was unsettled or flushed temporarily. Often the one, Fish or American, on the wire outside my window at the time (the wire was thick enough for both; food placed right below) eventually became accustomed to me, not flushing, but on edge temporarily. Glass is invisible or reflective for birds. – *G. Stevenson, Bethlehem, Pa.*

Ads of the World got our attention. http://adsoftheworld.com/media/ambient/office-max_get_organized

Davosk / Thu, 2009-01-22 07:33

Nice. Just needs a little bucket for the poo.

Guest / Thu, 2009-01-22 22:46

What if a real pigeon decided to land on the ‘crow’ section?

Wordnerd / Fri, 2009-01-23 03:57

are you aware, that those fake crows are normally used to scare pigeons

TALK continued

away? and that it works really good?

monicamexico / Fri, 2009-01-23 17:46

Funny, but the bird labels are overkill. Consumers aren’t stupid.

Guest / Sat, 2009-01-24 12:25

The labels may be overkill. But if there were no labels, how would the birds know where they are supposed to stand

on the billboard. Part of the process of organizing things is to use labels to identify where things go.

Finally the official press release issued April 20, made no mention of birds nor how they should be organized or labeled much less where to find the crow statues, but ASCAR’s investigators noticed that one of the press contacts was Jennifer Rook.

Hi Corvis,
First, I'd like to know my Corvi number ...

2) Last year, my wife and I went to the Northwest Cascades Institute near Lake Diablo Dam in Washington, for a Corvid weekend. We saw many of several kinds of corvids. A prof from Washington University presented a lecture about them. He showed a video of a raven named Alice. She was able to create a hooked tool from a piece of wire by bending it around a jar. She then used it to remove a goody from this deep jar, otherwise not obtainable. Marvelous!

3) *Science News* magazine, Sept, 13, 2008, page 10, had an article about a magpie that is the first known non-mammal to be *self-aware*. She recognized a red spot on her throat in the mirror, and scratched it off with her claw *while looking in the mirror*.

4) Sometimes you print an article, but don't reveal the author. Is this a privacy issue?

5) I've been trying to attract crows to my deck by leaving all kinds of goodies. So far (about a year!) I've only attracted seagulls (beautiful flyers!), Lbbs, Junkos, squirrels and at night, raccoons. Only once did I see a crow, who was chased away by the then-present seagulls. Any suggestions?

I really enjoy the Chronicle. I'm enclosing another donation to keep up the good work! -- *Corvi 2364, Bellingham, Wash.*

EDITOR'S NOTE: Some authors are shy. Some



Illustration by Jim Haynes

LETTERS

very private -- as may be the crows in your neighborhood -- and a few are downright mysterious.

Dear Corvi Chronicle,

Enclosed is a check to help pay for the expenses of sending out our favorite and always surprising and entertaining newsletter. While formerly in Danbury, we lived amidst an annual winter primary roost of crows, now we enjoy the sight and sounds of a raven pair in Corinth, Vermont. -- *Corvi 382*

Thank you for the wonderful newsletter. I ♥ my crows. We live on a greenbelt and they have breakfast with me every day. What will my # be? #46 was on the note. Is that you? -- *Corvi 2744, Covington, Wash.*

Dear Chronicle Corvi --

Enclosed please find my contribution for 2009. As usual, I am *never* disappointed by the Chronicle's erudite wit and thoughtful insight into the biology, lore and humane corvid interrelationships of our corvis brethren. ...There's no need to send me a note of acknowledgement. I know you appreciate my support as I appreciate your fine publication and efforts to communicate to non-believers the value of crows, ravens, magpies, etc. Please save your over-

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EXHIBITION

Lenape legend of four crows

A year-long exhibition at the University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology in Philadelphia tells the story of the Lenape people through the flights of four crows.

At the opening last fall, Chief Red Hawk Ruth of the Lenape Nation of Pennsylvania summarized the native legend, *The Prophecy of the Fourth Crow*, with the current interpretation:

"We now know that the First Crow was the Lenape before the coming of the Europeans. The Second Crow symbolized the death and destruction of our culture. The Third Crow was our people going underground and hiding. The Fourth Crow was the Lenape becoming caretakers again and working with everybody to restore this land."

Archaeology magazine's review of the exhibition noted that the collaboration of the Lenape Nation and the Penn Museum is part of the crow's fourth flight.

Titled, *Fulfilling a Prophecy: The Past and Present of the Lenape in Pennsylvania*, the exhibition begins with a short video to introduce visitors to "The Prophecy of the Fourth Crow." Narration is first in the Lenape language, then translated into English. (See below)

The exhibition continues through Sept. 13, 2009. For more information and view the short video, visit the Museum's website at www.museum.upenn.edu or call (215) 898-4000. To learn more about the Lenape Nation visit their website <http://www.lenapenation.org>

Neweneit Na Ahas

THE PROPHECY OF THE FOURTH CROW

As told by Robert Red Hawk Ruth
Translated by Shelley DePaul

Lomewe, luwe na okwes xu laxakwihele xkwithakamika.

Long ago it was said that a fox will be loosened on the earth.

Ok nen luwe newa ahasak xu peyok.

Also it was said four crows will come.

Netami ahas kenthul li guttitehewagan wichi Kishelemukonk.

The first crow flew the way of harmony with Creator.

Nisheneit ahas kwechi pilito entalelemukonk, shek palsu ok ankela.

The second crow tried to clean the world, but he became sick and he died.

Nexeneit ahas weneyoo ankelek xansa ok koshiphuwe.

The third crow saw his dead brother and he hid.

Neweneit ahas kenthul li guttitehewagan lapi wichi Kishelemukonk.

The fourth crow flew the way of harmony again with Creator.

Kenahkihechik xu withatuwak xkwithakamika.

Caretakers they will live together on the earth

LETTERS *continued*

head costs. – *Corvi 295, Nevada, Iowa*

P.S. Re: "Mourning becomes eclectic" Vol XXIII, #3

Crows do mourn their dead. I've seen them do it. Also to the best of their abilities, they feed, protect and try to otherwise help an injured family member. I've seen that too, several times.

Dear ASCAR –I just happened upon your Website and absolutely loved it! Please register my name as a proud Corvis member as ... "Raincloud/Corvi #944." I am so excited to meet like minded Crow/Raven lovers
– *Raincloud/Corvi 944, Olympia, Wash.*

Great job on the Chronicle. We always enjoy the writing, the drawings and everything else. Many thanks! *Non soli sumus!*
– *Corvi 112107, Denver, Colo.*

Dear Mr. Corvi – ... I would like to be a member of ASCAR. As I have no clue when you're supposed to pick a name, whenever seems very applicable to now. So I shall be Emo Raven Dark Heart. Just kidding. Tempest sounds good. So



"Common raven" photographed last summer by Eugene Beckes of Stark Raven Graphics, St. Ignatius, Mont. He wrote: "I got lucky the other day, and came across what must have been a recently fledged and slightly naive raven. He allowed me to blaze away with my camera. Where I live, in Western Montana, ravens tend to be quite wary of people."

be it. – *Tempest, Stockton, Calif.*

Dear Society:
Please add my name as a new Corvi member. I have had a lifelong attraction to crows and am now writing a children's novel about ravens. – *Corvi 4122, Oklahoma City*

Society,
Please add me to your membership. I often sing the praises of crows (which, evidently, is peculiar) and always find the raven's "kronk" stirring. – *Corvi 2302, Woodinville, Wash.*

CORVI CHRONICLE

American Society of Crows and Ravens
Kaw River Valley Roost
Box 1423
Lawrence KS 66044-8423
<http://www.ascaronline>.